

A

The Austin Homestead

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American Monthly



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PERHAPS the most trying time of year is that indefinite period known as "between seasons," which just now is upon us. Summer frocks and hats are a bit passé, and the weather is yet too warm to warrant the donning of fall clothes, so even the modish woman finds the selection of suitable habiliment rather a problem. Modistes and couturieres, however, have come to the rescue with models quite new and yet not too sombre looking for the glorious autumn days which we are soon to enjoy, and some fascinating fashions are the result of their clever planning.

The unusually cold weather which Paris has had this summer has apparently had the effect of making every designer put forth exquisite wraps, for never before has such a bewildering array of outer garments been seen. Marabout is having a more extensive vogue than ever, and for early winter wear promises to be a strong rival to furs. The latter, by the way, were actually donned in Paris during the recent cold snap there—a record performance, surely, for August! Picturesque wraps, stoles or scarves seem to be worn with everything save plain tailor-made suits.

The struggle against long sleeves, in which femininity was ably assisted by the glove manufacturers, has at last been successful, and the newest models display the comfortable three-quarter length, if not the elbow sleeve.

American women have long rebelled against trailing lengths of useless cloth in the form of trains on street gowns, and even the Parisienne has now capitulated to the lure of the "trotteur" for everything except evening frocks or those for most formal afternoon wear. The vogue of the fancy tailor suit is most pronounced, buttons playing an important part as trimmings. The waist line is again normal, and Empire modes are decidedly on the wane, though the ever-attractive princess lines will be seen on some of the handsomest frocks. Skirts show a tendency to fullness, and sleeves are moderately large—quite evidently on the "up" grade. Draped effects are very smart, and moire is perhaps the leading fabric for beautiful gowns—a soft, exquisite material, however, far removed from the moires of a few years ago.

The coming season may be termed a Louis XVI. period, brocades and velvets predominating and soft tones being in the lead. It is, moreover, a season of contrasts, and one marvels at the rarely beautiful tints displayed. This year's chart, however, clearly shows that there is indeed "nothing new under the sun," for the gamut of color simply recalls to mind the world-famous tapestries which have inspired the dyers in their search for new shades. The brilliant colors seen are reminiscent of the plumage of tropical birds, and the barbaric note is strong in both ornaments and jewelry.

One of the most conspicuous features of the season is the innovation in hair-dressing, which is assuming most classic lines. Grecian effects have been in vogue, in a modified way, for some time, but absolute simplicity is now the keynote of the fashionable coiffure, and "puffs" appear to be either "lost, strayed or stolen," so completely have they disappeared from the head of the modish woman. The new hats make this change almost obligatory, too, so on the whole they may be regarded as a blessing, since one's long-suffering locks will have a much needed rest from the tortures of the marcel wave.

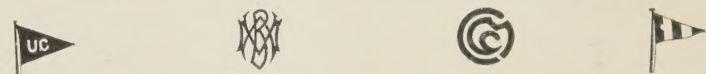
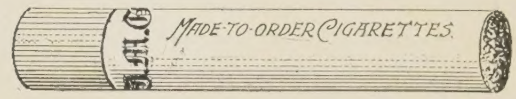
Green is to be a most popular color, one of the latest tints showing the exquisite sheen seen on the crest of a wave. Aero-plane is the name given to a blue green just shown, and Lizard displays the iridescent shades boasted by the chameleon. All the brown tones will be in vogue, ranging through suede, mustard, bronze, nut and wood brown. Cosaque is a beautiful dark green, Hippique a pink brown; Clematis might be termed a cousin of wistaria, while Passiflore bears equal relationship to amethyst. Persian is the name given to all the Persian blues. Burnt orange and terra cotta will have their followers, and gray in all tones, including the exquisite "mist" tint, is sure of an extensive vogue. Burgundy is a name covering one of the loveliest wine shades. The list of new designations for colors is a long one, but some of the other important ones are Corbeau, the black blue seen in a crow's plumage; Sphynx, a stone gray

which appears almost black; Champignon, yellow green; Chan-ticler, from Rostand's new play, which is a brown-red shade suggestive of the feathers of our barnyard fowl; Loutre, a black brown; Bleu Chevalier, the deep, rich blue seen in old paintings of knights, and Mammouth, a brown gray.

Black is much in favor, and many of the new colors blend to a shade which is almost black. Browns, very dark blues, greens and purples, also a new tone called coal-dust, give this novel effect, which is most attractive for street costumes.

One of the latest of Parisian fancies is a huge muff and square shawl effect of vinegar-colored silk draped in mist gray and brown chiffons, edged with marabout, which has just been imported by Madame Roworth and copied for a leading actress. The hat intended to be worn with it has a turban crown echoing the color, with huge brim covered with fur and marabout, a long heron aigrette sweeping the right side in a most rakish manner. Another modish hat is an Oriental turban in terra cotta tones, its only decoration being a huge rajah ornament studded with contrasting stones. A Louis XV. creation of an indefinite shade between brown and gray (mist, perhaps) is trimmed with four quill effects in ostrich and a diamond-shaped ornament echoing in color the velvet and silk of the hat. Three or four tones of velvet are used to imitate the plumage of rare birds. A new auto bonnet is of the Incredible period, with bow of dark Persian ribbon. "Windy weather" is the name given to another quaint hood shape of shirred iridescent blue and green silk. Moire in raisin color is used for a huge cavalier shape, the facing being of black velvet. Two large plumes are simply tied on in Alsatian effect with a cravat bow of velvet. Among the draped hats may be mentioned one whose huge crown of velvet overhangs a smaller mushroom shape, the ends of velvet being tied in a huge bow. Gold and jet combinations in hat pins are used on these draped turbans, for ornament, not utility, sometimes being the only decoration. Egyptian scarabs are being converted into hat pins as well.

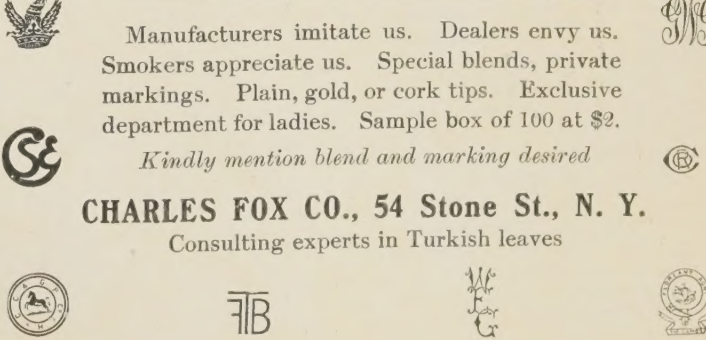
Summer girls who have spent the summer industriously cultivating a rich coat of tan on face, arms and neck are apt to change their minds regarding its becomingness when they come back to town, for the rich brown hue so effective on the beach has a way of refusing to blend harmoniously with the modish costumes of metropolitan life. Unfortunately, too, it has an unpleasant habit of lingering with its luckless possessor, and nothing but patience and time, combined with a reliable bleach, will restore the skin to its wonted whiteness. Facial massage, however, will do wonders with a neglected complexion, removing that weatherbeaten look so fatal to beauty, and the scientifically healthful treatment given by Miss Wilson at her establishment in the McCutcheon Building has merited the commendation of many fashionable women. After being comfortably settled in a large, luxurious chair, the patient is treated to a face bath of delicious Alveta Cream, this being allowed to remain several minutes. The face is then gently smoothed with a soft cloth, all impurities being removed. Alveta Skin Food is then coaxed and patted into the tissues by means of the electric vibrator and its various appliances. Absorption of this food by the skin causes the blood to circulate freely, and in this manner the relaxed muscles are toned up. The face is then bathed with a tonic and astringent, and the treatment ends with a finishing touch of delicate powder. A systematic course of this manipulation renders the complexion clear, smooth and white, and faithful use of Alveta Cream will prevent further damage to the skin from the too-inquisitive gaze of Old Sol.

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The Austin Homestead

HERE to-day and gone to-morrow is so characteristic of our restless land that it is a relief to the more conservatively inclined to find in Greater New York a house that still defies the sword of the destroying angel, now modernized to the baser use of cutting into allotments the beautiful estates so numerous a generation ago.

One of these, which for centuries has defied destruction, is the Austin Homestead on Staten Island, not far to the north of the

There are indications that the main part of the house was constructed during the Dutch occupation, as much of the material obviously came from Holland. Its Dutch builder, however, is unknown to fame, but from the middle of the Eighteenth Century to the War of Independence it was the residence of the Lake family, who cultivated a farm lying between the Bay and Fox Hills. During the Revolution it was the headquarters of Major Turner van Straubenzie, adjutant of the British forces on Staten Island. It was next occupied for a short period by the Bartons, a family allied to the Vanderbilts, both by marriage and business, who in turn sold it to the Austins, the grandfather of Mrs. Muller making a few additions which are as naturally and harmoniously related to the structure as if they had grown from it like the branches from a trunk.

Not the least attractive part of this attractive old homestead is the individuality displayed in the arrangement of its household gods—portraits, heirlooms, and wonderful examples of rare porcelain and teakwood furniture, brought from the Far East, which fill the various rooms. The grand old fireplace in the parlor, with its brass andirons, is surrounded by ancient tiles imported from Amsterdam two hundred years ago, while on the mantel above stand two small candlesticks that belonged to the Van Tassel family, the very ones no doubt that revealed the pretty face of the fair Katrina to the schoolmaster of Sleepy Hollow. A centerpiece is formed from a small knocker taken from the house in Chester once occupied by Washington, and beneath are suspended two links of the identical chain that was stretched across the Hudson at West Point during the Revolution.

It was Peter Townsend, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Muller and owner of the Stirling Iron Works, who forged this formidable barrier to the British fleet.

Mrs. Muller, though leading a retired life, is much sought by members of New York's social world, and is *au fait* with all that concerns it. She is related to many of its leading members, while Captain Muller comes of a famous Danish family, his ancestors having served the government in high official places.

For years he sailed his own ship o'er many seas, ever accompanied by his wife, who became so expert a navigator that she finally received a master's certificate—the first woman ever so honored.

No more fitting home port than the venerable Austin mansion could be found for this charming host and hostess. He, with



NORTH END OLD AUSTIN HOMESTEAD.

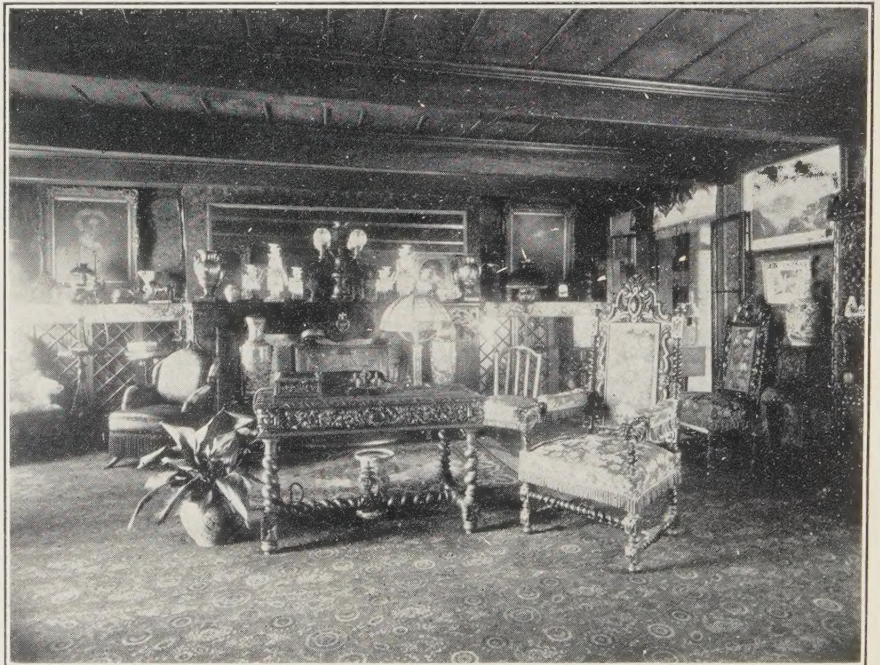
Quarantine Station, now the residence of Captain and Mrs. Oswald Muller (nee Austin). Its beautiful lawns, bordered with bright-hued flowers, slope gently to the water's edge, while magnificent old trees give an added charm to the quaint cottagelike structure which nestles in their shade all but hidden from the world without. The building is of wood and stone, long and low, with a wing extending from the rear. The sloping roof is pierced by three dormer windows which, for over two hundred years, have watched by land and sea the mighty march of progress.

What wonderful changes in commerce have these same windows gazed upon: the sturdy bluff-bowed galleon slowly beating out of the Narrows; the fast-sailing clipper; the Sirius and Savannah steaming leisurely across the Atlantic in twenty days; the gigantic Mauretania and her sister ship rushing from port to port in less than five, and but a little while and the old house shall lift its eyes to the still swifter ships of the air skimming high above hill and treetop.

Although not of historical importance the venerable mansion can still boast of local fame, for it has braved the storm and stress of the Revolution, sheltering by turns both Briton and patriot, and offering a rendezvous for many important men of the day.

As is most proper for so old a residence it has its own particular ghost, who may still be heard clanking his sword about on gusty nights, said spirit having once occupied the earthly body of a British officer, who hanged himself in the attic for the unrequited love of a fair name. Another indication of "long ago" is the huge fireplace in the cellar, at which the slaves were wont to warm themselves after having been locked in for the night.

The outer door is of diamond-paned glass backed by solid, three-inch oak, whose knocker, fashioned into the shape of a griffin's head, was brought from an old chateau near Rouen. Lift the latch and enter the cheerful, low-ceilinged hall, whose opposite door leads out into a wistaria-covered arbor, through which is seen the green lawn beyond, flecked with sunshine.



SITTING ROOM OLD AUSTIN HOMESTEAD.

his courtly old-world manners—still a busy man of affairs, with spare time for books and flowers; she, the grande dame, full of esprit and social graces, add a finishing touch to the homestead's mellow old age.

Oyster Bay

OYSTER BAY is always dull during August, from a social standpoint, since most of the cottagers slip away for a brief visit to Newport, Bar Harbor or the mountains. September, however, sees most of them ensconced once more in the quondam summer capital, and the usual round of informal entertaining is being indulged in. The cruise of the Seawanhaka-Corinthian Yacht Club was the leading feature of the season, the dance at the club house being a brilliant affair, and the yachts at anchor, with their myriads of tiny lights, presented a fairylike picture. The thirty-second annual Ladies' Race aroused much interest, Miss Susan Nichols, sailing the "Hen," being the winner. Others contesting were Mrs. A. D. Weeks, Jr., Miss Margaret Roosevelt, Miss Ruth Davis and the Misses Agnes, Edith and Cornelia Landon. The complimentary reception and tea given by the yachtswomen to Rear-Commodore Frank S. Hastings was largely attended. The Reception Commit-

tee consisted of Mrs. W. Emlen Roosevelt, Mrs. Auguste P. Montant, Mrs. W. J. Matheson and Mrs. Charles W. Wetmore. Mrs. Charles A. Sherman, Mrs. Walter T. Owen and Mrs. Victor I. Cumnock poured tea. Among those at the dance were Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Burnham and Mrs. Gouverneur E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. Victor I. Cumnock, Mr. and Mrs. E. Reeve Merritt, Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Weekes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Landon, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Titus, Mr. and Mrs. John Clinton Work, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Batchelder, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Tefft, the Misses Landon, Fry, and Weekes, Baron von Schlippenbach, Russian Consul-General; Count Vladimir Rogovin, and Messrs. Charles Este, John Hyslop, George Bullock, M. H. Clark, E. Tuckerman, Edward R. Cassidy, H. de F. Weekes, A. W. Cal-

lisen, Alfred Ely, Jr., Percy S. Weeks, F. G. Stewart, H. M. Crane, J. W. J. Stewart and Alexander M. Orr, Jr.

Manhattan Beach

The Midsummer Musical Festival at Manhattan Beach was one of the most brilliant affairs of the kind ever attempted in the vicinity of New York. The Arion Singing Society of Brooklyn presented an excellent program which was received with enthusiasm by the audience of over ten thousand persons.

Mr. Alfred S. Amer, Manager of the Manhattan Beach Hotel, announces the engagement of Mr. Carle Edouarde and his band of picked soloists for the remainder of the season. Mr. Edouarde gave a series of concerts at the Belasco Theatre last winter which were highly successful, and music lovers who patronize Manhattan Beach undoubtedly have a treat in store for them.



OLD AUSTIN HOMESTEAD.

Saratoga

SARATOGA has this year attracted many prominent people, either for a brief stop en automobile or for a more extended stay. The season's racing has been well attended, smart gowns and picture hats striking an effective color note in the grand stand. A lot of entertaining has been done in a quiet way, and luncheons, dinners and driving parties have helped to speed the hours on their merry way. Out of door driving has been much in vogue. Among those spending part of August at the Spa were Captain and Mrs. Edward B. Cassatt, Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. William Rockefeller, Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, Jr., Mrs. Sidney Dillon Ripley, Mrs. W. Snowden Nichols, Miss Adele Colgate, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., and Mr. James R. Keene.

tee consisted of Mrs. W. Emlen Roosevelt, Mrs. Auguste P. Montant, Mrs. W. J. Matheson and Mrs. Charles W. Wetmore. Mrs. Charles A. Sherman, Mrs. Walter T. Owen and Mrs. Victor I. Cumnock poured tea. Among those at the dance were Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Burnham and Mrs. Gouverneur E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. Victor I. Cumnock, Mr. and Mrs. E. Reeve Merritt, Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Weekes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Landon, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Titus, Mr. and Mrs. John Clinton Work, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Batchelder, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Tefft, the Misses Landon, Fry, and Weekes, Baron von Schlippenbach, Russian Consul-General; Count Vladimir Rogovin, and Messrs. Charles Este, John Hyslop, George Bullock, M. H. Clark, E. Tuckerman, Edward R. Cassidy, H. de F. Weekes, A. W. Cal-

H. H. Topakyan

H. H. Topakyan, who, though a native of Armenia, has lived for many years in New York, is the world's largest importer of rare and costly rugs. These form a wonderful exhibit at his spacious quarters at No. 501 Fifth Avenue, corner of Forty-second Street, an entire floor being devoted to their display. During the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, in 1892 and 1893, Mr. Topakyan acted as Imperial Persian Commissioner and Director-General of the Persian and Ottoman Pavilions, which he had constructed at his own expense and which were among the notable attractions shown that year. The forty-eight diplomas and forty-eight medals conferred upon Mr. Topakyan attest the merit of the exhibits, and he also received the personal thanks of President Cleveland in recognition of his services. A valuable antique carpet, presented by him, is now in the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago. One of the most exquisite specimens of the weaver's art is the marvelously beautiful Persian rug presented to America by Mr. Topakyan last year, the gift having been received by President Roosevelt on behalf of this country. This rug was the result of years of artistic labor, and has been pronounced by connoisseurs to be the finest of its kind in the world. It is of imperial silken texture, pearls, rubies, turquoise and other valuable stones being woven in it in lavish profusion. Framed in mahogany, it remains in the White House as a permanent tribute to Persian art in rug weaving and to the patriotism of the donor toward the country of his adoption.

For years Mr. Topakyan has represented Persia here, and not long ago he was appointed Consul-General in recognition of his efficient services to His Imperial Majesty, the Shah of Persia. Though his affairs are so centered in America, he retains his interest in his native land, and is one of the leading figures in the American Armenian colony here. He has received decorations from the Sultan of Turkey, the Shah of Persia and the Venezuelan and other governments, and is the proud possessor of an autographed photograph of Ex-President Roosevelt, bearing the inscription, "To Mr. H. H. Topakyan, with the good wishes of Theodore Roosevelt." Signed photographs of President Taft and J. Pierpont Morgan are also numbered among his treasures. Mr. Topakyan has a handsome country place at Morristown, "Persian Court," a typical oriental mansion of white marble surrounded by forty-eight acres of grounds. Here the sculptor and landscape gardener have shown their skill, while the interior of the dwelling is a treasure trove of oriental curios and bric-a-brac. Huge



H. H. TOPAKYAN.

lions rampant of marble guard the driveway, while quaint marble figures of Italian and Egyptian workmanship adorn the terrace.

Books Received

"The Woman in Question." By John Reed Scott. With illustrations in color by Clarence F. Underwood. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$1.50.

"The Black Flier." By Edith MacVane. With colored frontispiece by Howard Chandler Christy. Moffat, Yard & Co. \$1.50.

"The Kindergarten in the Home." By Carrie S. Newman. With illustrations by Etheldred B. Barry. \$1.50.

"Flying Plover." By Theodore Roberts. With illustrations by Charles Livingston Bull. L. C. Page & Co. Boston. \$1.00.

"As It Happened." By Ashton Hilliers. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

"A Bride on Trust." By Henry Curties. Dana, Estes & Co., Boston. \$1.50.

"Servitude." By Irene Osgood. Dana, Estes & Co., Boston. \$1.50.

"Daughters of the Rich." By Edgar Saltus. With frontispiece in color by Frank Haviland. Mitchell Kennerley. \$1.50.

"Hilary Thornton." By Hubert Wales. Dana, Estes & Co., Boston. \$1.50.

"The Goose Girl." By Harold MacGrath. With illustrations by Andre Castaigne. Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. \$1.50.

"The Bride of the Mistletoe." By James Lane Allen. The Macmillan Company. \$1.25.

"Anne of Avonlea." By L. M. Montgomery. With frontispiece and cover in color by George Gibbs. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. \$1.50.

"The Governors." By E. Phillips Oppenheim. With frontispiece in color by Will Greife and numerous illustrations by Howard Somerville. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$1.50.

"The Show Girl." By Max Pemberton. With frontispiece in colors. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia. \$1.50.

"Irene of the Mountains." By George Cary Eggleston. A romance of old Virginia. Illustrated by Frank T. Merrill. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston. \$1.50.

"The Kindergarten in the Home," by Carrie S. Newman (L. C. Page & Co.), is a clever interpretation of Froebel's somewhat obscure theories for busy and not over-analytical parents, pointing out simple facts often overlooked in the training of the young. It aims to awaken in these parents a responsibility and reverence for the offspring, and to act as an inspiration toward the fulfillment of the obligations incurred therewith. It likewise directs attention to the fact that the welfare of the little body and soul lies in the keeping of the father and mother. The suggestions for forming an honest, self-reliant character are so conclusively the result of keen observation and deep knowledge of child life that the book should be a guiding star in every home.

Alice MacGowan's new novel, "The Wiving of Lance Cleavage," which has been running serially in *Putnam's Magazine*, will appear in book form during the coming month.

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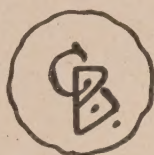
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Proc. S. D. Assn. Arts & Sci.
Vol. IV, Pts. I & II, p. 55. Oct. 1911 - May 1912.

Literature Relating to Staten Island

THE AUSTIN HOMESTEAD¹

This is an unsigned article, with three excellent illustrations, two of the exterior and one of the interior, of this picturesque Staten Island homestead. The opening words of the article will find a responsive echo in the minds and hearts of all Staten Islanders who love to recall the time when the entire region, from Vanderbilt Landing to and beyond Fort Wadsworth, was one continuous series of charming country homes, of which the Austin place is one of the few that remain. To quote the words: "Here to-day and gone to-morrow is so characteristic of our restless land that it is a relief to the more conservatively inclined to find in Greater New York a house that still defies the sword of the destroying angel, now modernized to the baser use of cutting into allotments the beautiful estates so numerous a generation ago. One of these, which for centuries has defied destruction, is the Austin homestead on Staten Island, not far to the north of the Quarantine Station, now the residence of Captain and Mrs. Oswald Muller (née Austin)."

The article also includes brief references to those who have owned and occupied the house in succession, and to those who had occasion to make it their temporary home at various times.

A. H.

¹ Amer. Society 5¹: 24, *illustr.*, September, 1909.

was so hard for
to part with my
and only brother
gifted, and devoted
me —

